

**SECTION 31. Trial by jury.**

The right of trial by jury shall remain inviolate, but the Legislature may, by enactment, provide that in all civil suits tried in the circuit and chancery court, nine or more jurors may agree on the verdict and return it as the verdict of the jury.

**SOURCES:** 1817 art I § 28; 1832 art I § 28; 1869 art I § 12; Laws, 1916, ch. 158.

**SECTION 32. Construction of enumerated rights.**

The enumeration of rights in this constitution shall not be construed to deny and impair others retained by, and inherent in, the people.

**SOURCES:** 1817 art I; 1832 art I; 1869 art I § 32.

**ARTICLE 4**

**LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

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**IN GENERAL**

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**SECTION 33. Composition of Legislature.**

The legislative power of this state shall be vested in a Legislature which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

**SOURCES:** 1817 art III § 4; 1832 art III § 4; 1869 art IV § 1.

**SECTION 34. Composition of House of Representatives.**

The House of Representatives shall consist of members chosen every four years by the qualified electors of the several counties and Representative districts.

**SOURCES:** 1869 art IV § 2.

**SECTION 35. Composition of Senate.**

The Senate shall consist of members chosen every four years by the qualified electors of the several districts.

**SOURCES:** 1869 art IV § 4.

**SECTION 36. Sessions.**

The Legislature shall meet at the seat of government in regular session on the Tuesday after the first Monday of January of the year A.D., 1970, and annually thereafter, unless sooner convened by the Governor; provided, however, that such sessions shall be limited to a period of one hundred twenty-five (125) calendar days for regular 1972 session and every fourth year thereafter, but ninety (90) calendar days for every other regular session thereafter. Provided further that the House of Representatives, by resolution with the Senate concurring therein, and by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of those present and voting in each house, may extend such limited session for a period of thirty (30) days with no limit on the number of extensions to each session.

**SOURCES:** 1869 art IV § 6; Laws, 1912, ch. 414; Laws, 1968, ch. 634.

**NOTE:** The 1968 amendment to Section 36 of Article 4 of the Constitution of 1890 was proposed by House Concurrent Resolution No. 36 of the 1968 regular session of the Legislature, and upon ratification by the electorate on June 4, 1968, was inserted by a proclamation of the Secretary of State on June 13, 1968, by virtue of the authority vested in him by Section 273 of the Constitution.

**SECTION 37. Elections for members.**

Elections for members of the Legislature shall be held in the several counties and districts as provided by law.

**SOURCES:** 1869 art IV § 8.

**SECTION 38. Election of officers by each house.**

Each house shall elect its own officers, and shall judge of the qualifications, return and election of its own members.

**SOURCES:** 1869 art IV § 10.

**SECTION 39. President pro tempore of Senate.**

The Senate shall choose a President pro tempore to act in the absence or disability of its presiding officer.

**SOURCES:** 1869 art IV § 11.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND PRIVILEGES OF  
LEGISLATORS**

**SECTION 40.** Oath of office.

**SECTION 41.** Qualifications of House of  
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for office.

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during term of office.

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**SECTION 49.** Power of impeachment.  
**SECTION 50.** Impeachment grounds.  
**SECTION 51.** Removal from office.  
**SECTION 52.** Persons to preside in impeachment proceedings.  
**SECTION 53.** Removal of judges for reasonable cause.

**SECTION 40. Oath of office.**

Members of the Legislature, before entering upon the discharge of their duties, shall take the following oath: "I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Mississippi; that I am not disqualified from holding office by the Constitution of this state; that I will faithfully discharge my duties as a legislator; that I will, as soon as practicable hereafter, carefully read (or have read to me) the Constitution of this State, and will endeavor to note, and as a legislator to execute, all the requirements thereof imposed on the Legislature; and I will not vote for any measure or person because of a promise of any other member of this Legislature to vote for any measure or person, or as a means of influencing him or them so to do. So help me God."

**SECTION 41. Qualifications of House of Representatives members.**

No person shall be a member of the House of Representatives who shall not have attained the age of twenty-one (21) years, and who shall not be a qualified elector of the State, and who shall not have been a resident citizen of the State for four (4) years, and within the district such person seeks to serve for two (2) years, immediately preceding his election. The seat of a member of the House of Representatives shall be vacated on his removal from the district from which he was elected.

**SOURCES:** 1817 art III § 7; 1832 art III § 7; 1869 art IV § 3; Laws, 1987, ch. 674, eff December 4, 1987.

**SECTION 42. Qualifications of Senators.**

No person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained the age of twenty-five years, who shall not have been a qualified elector of the State four years, and who shall not be an actual resident of the district or territory he may be chosen to represent for two years before his election. The seat of a Senator shall be vacated upon his removal from the district from which he was elected.

**SOURCES:** 1817 art III § 14; 1832 art III § 14; 1869 art IV § 5.

**SECTION 43. Person liable for public monies ineligible for office.**

No person liable as principal for public moneys unaccounted for shall be eligible to a seat in either house of the legislature, or to any office of profit or trust, until he shall have accounted for and paid over all sums for which he may have been liable.

**SOURCES:** 1817 art III § 28; 1832 art III § 28; 1869 art IV § 16.

**SECTION 44. Ineligibility for office of person convicted of certain crimes.**

(1) No person shall be eligible to a seat in either House of the Legislature, or to any office of profit or trust, who shall have been convicted of bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime; and any person who shall have been convicted of giving or offering, directly, or indirectly, any bribe to procure his election or appointment, and any person who shall give or offer any bribe to procure the election or appointment of any person to office, shall, on conviction thereof, be disqualified from holding any office of profit or trust under the laws of this state.

(2) No person who is convicted after ratification of this amendment in another state of any offense which is a felony under the laws of this state, and no person who is convicted after ratification of this amendment of any felony in a federal court, shall be eligible to hold any office of profit or trust in this state.